

PAC GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2008

PAC Executive in Attendance Zena Kwan, Jane Andrew, Pia Gant, Rhylin Bailie, Anne Deliyannides, Anita Gartner, Shannon Kaustinen, Jen Mezei
Regrets: Denise Hayhurst, Fiona Avakumovic

Meeting Commenced 7:02pm

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

- Motion to approve minutes Ann 1st, Pia 2nd

YOUTH CREDIT UNION

- **Youth Benefits**
 - The goal is to introduce young people to the principles of saving and managing money. Students will also develop skills that will help them to be more successful as young adults.
 - Making money grow.
 - Interpersonal and interview skills.
 - Charitable giving.
 - As an added bonus Vancity will deposit \$10 to any new Youth Account opened to help get their savings off to a good start.
- **How it Works**
 - Once a week over the lunch hour, Seaforth lobby will be transformed into a Youth Credit Union.
 - Students set up teller wickets and young members (customers) line up to deposit their money, this gives the youth hands on experience. The program is run by the students under the guidance of a Board of Directors made up of older students who are either appointed by their teacher sponsor, or elected by fellow students.
- **School Benefits**
 - The school/teachers can apply to the Board of the YCU for grants up to \$400 towards a need in the school.
 - For every new member joining the Youth Credit Union the school receives \$10.
 - School and students have access to people who can provide them with financial knowledge.
- **Other Information**
 - Deposit days are every Thursday at noon, once the students have deposited their money; the funds are taken to a local Vancity Branch. Students receive monthly statements and can access their funds by going into any Vancity branch with their parents.

FAMILY PHOTO NIGHT – MARYANN GIARDINI

- Family photo nights for October 14th and 16th have been sold out.
- Two other Family Photo Nights were booked for October 17th and October 23rd.
- There are still four opening on October 23rd.
- If all bookings are used up there will have been 60 bookings, which at \$20 each represents a \$1200 donation to the school.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT – RHYLIN BAILIE

- Ms. Eterman and Ms. Minichiello (the Directors of the North Spirit Ringers) spoke with the PAC Executive (at the PAC Executive Meeting, October 6th, 2008) regarding the PAC making a donation to the Handbell Choir.
- Eight Seaforth students are members of the handbell choir.
 - This handbell choir is called “Northern Spirit Ringers”
 - They rehearse at Seaforth School
- These choirs are opened to those students in Grades 6 to 12 that are enrolled in a Burnaby School.
- It was requested that the PAC make a donation for an additional set of handbells.
- Each set of handbells will cost \$5,000.00.
- Looking to purchase these handbells by Christmas to take advantage of a time restricted offer – the School District will match funds raised, so the Handbell Choir only has to raise \$5000 and the District will pay the other \$5000 – but they have to raise the funds by December of this year.
- One of the reasons why Ms. Eterman and Ms. Minichiello wanted to meet with the PAC Executives is so that the PAC is aware that a fundraising letter may go out and to ensure that it won’t conflict with anything else going out at that time.
- It was decided by the PAC Executives that the letter can go home with students, but it must be on Handbell Choir letterhead. PAC letterhead will not be used to solicit funds for the handbells.
- As only a very few students from Seaforth participate in the choir it was decided that the PAC Executive would not donate any of the PAC funds to purchase handbells.
- The donation policy at Seaforth is that each school group is allowed to solicit once for an activity.
- The only PAC fundraiser is the donation request and then the Parents Social/Silent Auction which is held in the spring.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS – RHYLIN BAILIE

- As we no longer ask for Toonies on these particular Tuesdays it was decided that the name would be changed from Toonie Tuesdays to Terrific Tuesdays.
- First two Terrific Tuesdays have been set up:
 - October 28 and November 25.
- Both are a Magic/Clown show.
- **Action Item - If anyone has any ideas for Terrific Tuesdays please let us know.**

SPEAKERS – JEN MEZEI

- Boy Smarts – Barry McDonald
 - *Brief synopsis* - understanding boys and how to work with them rather than against them.
 - Tentatively booked for November 25th
 - Would like this talk to be at Seaforth School
 - It was suggested to charge Seaforth parents five dollars per person (may be too confusing to charge per couple) if you pre-register, ten dollars if you pay at the door.

- If the Seaforth parents do attend the seminar then they will be reimbursed their five dollars.
- It was suggested to get the Seaforth parents to write a cheque for \$5.00 then if they show up to Boy Smarts the cheque will not be cashed.
- Cameron School and Forest Grove School are also interested in attending Boy Smarts.
- **Action Item - Need to make a decision quickly as Barry McDonald books up fast (usually at \$15.00 per person).**
- We can always cancel Boy Smarts if there is not enough interest. However if you do not cancel by a certain date the cancellation cost will come out of PAC funds.
- Perfectionism – Joan Pinkus
 - *Brief synopsis* – addresses the effects of sleep deprivation, perfectionism, and procrastination and stress on student health and what parents can do to help.
 - Will try to book Joan for late January.
 - Budget of \$500.00 for speaker.
- Saleema Noon
 - *Brief synopsis* – making sexual health easy to talk about.
 - Saleema will be speaking with parents and students of Seaforth in March.

TREASURY REPORT - SHANNON KAUSTINEN

- The annual Government grant (from Gaming proceeds) funds were received. The grant total was \$10,500. Funds received are based on the student population. These funds must be kept in a separate account from the “general” PAC operation account and have some restrictions as to what they can be used for.
- Donation total to date is \$10,400. These donations are distributed equally to the divisions based on student size and used accordingly by the teachers. \$10,340 has already been issued to Seaforth for use (as more donations are received, funds will be issued). Stats for this year’s donations is as follows:
 - 56% of the families have participated (from a possible 366 families).
 - Average donation per child is \$37.28
 - Average donation per family is \$50.49
- Hot Lunch gross “revenues” for the first half of the year totaled \$14,091. Expenses will be netted against this and net profit will go towards budgeted PAC expenditures. Historically, Hot Lunch “nets” a profit of ~\$10,000 for PAC use.
- The bank accounts do not earn interest nor are there service charges. The PAC executive would like to take a small amount of funds and purchase a GIC through its bank (HSBC). By purchasing a 30 day GIC (and simply renewing it), PAC can earn ~ \$150 extra dollars per year. Account balances are as follows:

○ General operating account -	\$22,103.99
○ Government grant (Gaming) account -	\$14,383.96
- It was suggested that perhaps the PAC money could go into a money market fund.
 - This depends on what level of security (certain rating) – needs to be guaranteed safe.
- Within the next 30 days the PAC will explore alternate ideas other than a GIC.
- A motion for \$15,000 to be put into a GIC for 30 days – Jane 1st, Sophia 2nd.

GUEST SPEAKER – KEITH CHONG

- Keith Chong, summarized the students' progress over the past three years towards the school goal of increasing students' reading and critical thinking skills.
- The school goal is to increase students' reading and comprehension skills and also to reduce the number of students classified as "at risk," which is any student deemed to not be meeting or only minimally meeting expectations for their age group.
- Since 2006 the school has collected data on the students' performance in three categories: the province-wide reading test conducted in May the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) scores, and year-end report cards.
- All Seaforth students are tracked with the exception of students on a modified program.
- The FSAs are given to Grade 4 and 7 students only. French students write the FSAs in English, but are given the province-wide reading test in French.
- Mr. Chong provided data showing how the school has performed year over year since 2006.
- The data was broken into primary and intermediate performance, girls compared to boys, French compared to English, and also by cohort, allowing parents to track the progress of their children's grades each year.
- When compared to the Burnaby District scores and the Provincial scores, Seaforth students consistently perform well above average.
- Seaforth was congratulated on its stellar performance and said that the school performs above the international standard for reading proficiency.
- This strong standing in the District and Province is even more impressive considering that all Seaforth students are tested and tracked, whereas other schools often exclude children that are not meeting expectations in an effort to increase their school rankings.
- Mr. Chong pointed out that the year-end report card standings are the best indicator of the students' performance, since report cards track student progress over the entire year, whereas the province-wide reading test and the FSAs only track performance on a single day, and students who were having an "off" day may not have performed to their true potential on that particular day.
- Mr. Chong will post the school performance data to the Seaforth website shortly.
- Parents can also contact Mr. Chong directly should they have questions about the data collection or the school's performance.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – PIA GANT:

- Walk to School Day was a huge success.
- 374 students participated making this the highest turnout so far.
- Thank you to all the parents who helped out.
- Traffic Safety Week will start next week.

HOT LUNCH – RISHMA VALLANI

- The Hot Lunch Committee removed some of the snack items that no longer comply with health regulations, i.e. Bear Paws, Sun Chips
- Unfortunately can not find a supplier that is willing to just deal with supplying baked chips.
- Rice Krispie squares are no longer available at Costco.
- Hot Lunch Committee is thinking of supplying snack items as they find readily available.

- The Hot Lunch Committee would like to set up a concession stand – on some hot lunch days – that would have treats that the students could buy. These snack items would of course comply with health regulations.
- It was suggested to put the concession stand in the entry way of the school.
- Students would bring their money to school and would be a first come first serve basis.
- An announcement will be given out ahead of time to the students so that they will be prepared to bring money on those days

DPAC – JEN MEZEI

- Not a lot of business was done at the last DPAC Meeting as was mostly introductions.

BCCPAC – JEN MEZEI

- *Workshop: Keynote Speaker: Building Dynamic Teams*
Date: Thursday, October 23rd – 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Attending: Jane Andrew
- *Workshop: ScreenSmart*
Date: Friday, October 24th – 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Attending: Pia Gant
- *Workshop: Six Thinking Hats*
Date: Friday, October 24th 3:00pm – 4:30
Attending: Rhylin Bailie
- *Workshop: Volunteers and the Law*
Date: Saturday, October 25th – 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Attending: Jane Andrews
- It was suggested that a paragraph of each presentation should be given by the attendees.

NEW BUSINESS – BRAD TAYLOR

- Mr. McTaggart's plaque has been vandalized.
- The plaque needs to be replaced. **Action Item- Rhylin to talk with Rachela regarding this.**

Meeting Adjourned 8:57pm, Jane 1st, Pia 2nd